



# CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF INSTRUCTION

J-3  
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CJCSI 3440.01E  
30 March 2015

## NASA HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT SUPPORT OPERATIONS

### References:

- a. "Unified Command Plan 2011," 6 April 2011, with Change-1 dated 12 September 2011
- b. DoDD 3002.01E, 16 April 2009, "Personnel Recovery in the Department of Defense," with Change-1, 4 April 2013
- c. Joint Publication 1-02 series, 8 November 2010 amended 15 August 2013, "DOD Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms"
- d. DepSecDef memo, 15 October 1996, with CJCS cover letter (Amended 1 May 2007), "Assignment of Responsibilities for the DoD Manager, Manned Space Flight Support (MSFS) Operations"
- e. UN Treaty, 3 December 1968, "Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts, and the Return of Objects Launched Into Outer Space"

1. Purpose. To provide instruction and delineate responsibilities for human space flight support operations involving land, maritime, and air assets.

2. Superseded/Cancellation. CJCSI 3440.01D, 31 August 2011, is hereby superseded.

3. Applicability. This instruction applies to the Military Departments (including the Coast Guard when operating as a Military Service in the Department of the Navy), the Joint Staff, and the Combatant Commands.

4. Policy

a. Human space flight systems of the United States are national assets that serve both civil and defense users consistent with national space policy directives, statutes, and executive orders. The Department of Defense (DoD) will provide operational support resources requested by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and validated by the DoD

Manager for Human Space Flight Operations. The intent is for the Department to support NASA by providing unique capabilities as requested by NASA without adversely impacting the accomplishment of primary DoD missions.

b. The Commander, U.S. Strategic Command (CDR, USSTRATCOM) is designated as the DoD Manager for Human Space Flight Support Operations (reference a) and has all responsibilities and authorities as the supported commander for this role. Additionally, CDR, USSTRATCOM, as the DoD Manager for Human Space Flight Support Operations, and in coordination with the Joint Staff, is authorized to accept NASA human space flight support requests directly on behalf of DoD. To facilitate effective use of DoD resources in supporting NASA, CDR, USSTRATCOM, and staff will coordinate directly with necessary elements of the Military Departments, Combatant Commands, DoD Agencies, and other appropriate departments and agencies of the U.S. Government (USG).

c. It is DoD policy (reference b) that when requested and directed by the President of the United States or the Secretary of Defense, the Department shall provide personnel recovery, including search and rescue (SAR), to other governments, agencies, and organizations, in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and memorandums of agreement or understanding. As a crucial element of human space flight support operations for NASA, the enclosure contains general guidance to facilitate an expeditious SAR response for astronauts and to recover USG- or NASA-sponsored commercially procured crew space vehicles and/or their payload from the continental United States (CONUS), foreign territories, or international areas.

5. Definitions. Terms used in this instruction are defined in reference c, except as noted below:

a. Human Space Flight Support (HSFS). HSFS is pre-planned, scoped, tasked and subsequently organized under CDR, USSTRATCOM, who is appointed DoD manager for HSFS, in accordance with the Unified Command Plan (UCP) (reference a) and Deputy Secretary of Defense (DepSecDef) memo (reference d.)

b. Human Space Flight Support Operations (HSFSO). HSFSO are conducted for normal (nominal) operations as well as emergency (contingency or mode) operations for spacecraft. These operations include SAR of astronauts, pre-positioning of forces, landing site support at DoD installations and other locations, payload security and support, medical support, news media support, abort site weather support, unique communications activities, and coordination of airlift, sealift and salvage support. The Department may provide other unique capabilities to NASA such as testing, development, and training as required by the situation when such support is coordinated and approved through proper command channels.

c. Human Space Flight Operations Contingency. A generic term associated with human space flight operations used to describe an operational event requiring termination of a pre-launch, flight, or landing operation, which may result in substantial damage to or loss of the space vehicle and/or injury to personnel or has the potential to do so.

(1) HSFS Contingency Response (CR). When a contingency or “mode” is declared by NASA and pre-positioned assets are sufficient to abate the emergency without unplanned local, state, or Geographic Combatant Commander response, the operations are HSFS and are managed by the DoD manager for HSFS, CDR, USSTRATCOM, as the supported commander.

(2) Consequence Management (CM). CM operations are conducted in response to major disasters as approved and directed by the President and Secretary of Defense. When a contingency or “mode” is declared by NASA that requires a response that exceeds the capability of pre-positioned DoD assets, local or state emergency response mechanisms are required (these are CM operations). Geographic Combatant Commanders are the supported DoD commanders in their area of responsibility (AOR) for CM operations and provide direct support to the Lead Federal Agency (LFA).

## 6. Responsibilities

a. The Joint Staff/J-3, Deputy Directorate for Nuclear, Homeland Defense, and Current Operations (J33/DDHDNCO), is the Joint Staff point of contact tasked with supporting the Combatant Commands in implementing and executing this instruction. J33/DDHDNCO also serves as the Joint Staff point of contact for instruction corrections, updates and revisions.

b. CDR, USSTRATCOM, is the DoD Manager for HSFSO. Specific responsibilities of the DoD manager include, but are not limited to, those prescribed in subparagraphs 6.b.(1) to 6.b.(7). CDR, USSTRATCOM has designated the DoD Human Space Flight Support Office (Det 3, 45th OG) as the office of primary responsibility to carry out CDR, USSTRATCOM-assigned responsibilities for HSFSO. As the primary support staff to the DoD manager, Det 3, 45th OG is the principle DoD liaison for HSFSO. CDR, USSTRATCOM (the DoD manager) shall:

(1) Coordinate and direct development of functional and/or operational plans and develop requirements for HSFSO involving the use of DoD resources. CDR, USSTRATCOM, will approve final plans after formal coordination is completed with Combatant Commands and other supporting government agencies.

(2) Coordinate unique support requirements with Combatant Commanders and Military Departments responsible for providing services, equipment, personnel, and facilities to support HSFSO.

(3) Coordinate with supporting DoD forces, other DoD agencies, and other USG agencies, facilities, and assets that are committed to and actively participate in HSFSO.

(4) Support and coordinate with appropriate Combatant Commanders in recovering astronauts or the space vehicle and/or its payload (as required) including in the event overt interference is anticipated or the use of force is required.

(5) If SAR operations for astronauts or recovery operations for the space vehicle and/or its payload are required within U.S. territories and territorial waters, provide support to the designated principal agency and the supported Combatant Command, as required.

(6) Ensure financial arrangements associated with the DoD human space flight support conform to the applicable directives and agreements on interagency support.

(7) Ensure public affairs aspects of DoD participation in human space flight support operations conform to the policies and procedures of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs and agreements between NASA and the Department.

c. Combatant Commanders are responsible for planning for, supporting and conducting the recovery of astronauts and space vehicles within the Combatant Commander's AOR, as directed.

(1) Coordinate on functional and/or operational plans developed by CDR, USSTRATCOM, regarding HSFSO.

(2) Develop appropriate supporting plans for HSFSO or integrate support requirements into existing plans, as appropriate.

(3) Designate offices of primary responsibility within the command to coordinate all HSFSO matters and notify USSTRATCOM and Det 3, 45th OG of the offices designated.

(4) Coordinate with CDR, USSTRATCOM, on unique support requirements regarding forces and facilities necessary to participate in human space flight support operations.

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(5) When directed, conduct and/or coordinate SAR operations for the astronauts and provide support to recover the space vehicle and/or its payload.

(6) When directed, function as the supported Combatant Command in support of consequence management operations. See paragraph 5.c.2.

7. Summary of Changes. This instruction updates references and more thoroughly describes the responsibilities of the Joint Staff, the DoD manager, and other Combatant Commands for human space flight support operations.

8. Releasability. UNRESTRICTED. This instruction is approved for public release; distribution is unlimited on NIPRNET. DoD Components (to include the Combatant Commands), other Federal Agencies, and the public may obtain copies of this directive through the Internet from the CJCS Directives Electronic Library at [http://www.dtic.mil/cjcs\\_directives](http://www.dtic.mil/cjcs_directives). Joint Staff activities may also obtain access via the SIPR directives Electronic Library Web sites.

9. Effective Date. This INSTRUCTION is effective upon receipt.

For the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

  
JACQUELINE D. VAN OVOST, Maj Gen, USAF  
Vice Director, Joint Staff

Enclosure:

A -- Guidance for DoD Search and Rescue Operations for Astronauts and Human Space Vehicle Recovery

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ENCLOSURE

GUIDANCE FOR DOD SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS FOR  
ASTRONAUTS AND HUMAN SPACE VEHICLE RECOVERY

1. Introduction. This enclosure provides guidance to assist the Joint Staff and Combatant Commanders respond and coordinate in the event of an accident, distress, or emergency landing of human space vehicles in foreign or domestic territories, in either permissive, uncertain, or hostile environments. It is not intended to supersede processes and procedures used by Combatant Commands where immediate response is necessary in emergency situations or in response to DoD contingencies, where use of force is required or authorized. All actions undertaken shall be consistent with U.S. law and U.S. obligations under international law, including treaty obligations.

2. Agreement on the Rescue and Return of Astronauts. This is a multilateral international agreement (reference e) entered into force on 3 December 1968. Among other things, ratifying parties have agreed to:

a. Take immediate steps to rescue astronauts landing in their territory and render them necessary assistance.

b. Cooperate with the launching authority and notify the Secretary-General of the United Nations of steps being taken to rescue the astronauts and the progress of those efforts.

c. Provide assistance for SAR operations if the astronauts bail out or land in international areas.

3. Human Space Vehicle Contingencies in a Permissive Environment. Future human space vehicles should land at designated CONUS locations or at selected emergency and/or alternate landing locations in CONUS and outside CONUS where overt interference is not anticipated. Astronaut SAR and human space vehicle recovery operations are HSFS contingency response operations when pre-positioned assets are sufficient to abate the emergency without unplanned local, state, or Geographic Combatant Commander response (see paragraph 5.c.1). The operations are managed by the DoD manager for HSFS (CDR, USSTRATCOM) as the supported commander.

4. Human Space Vehicle Contingencies in Uncertain or Hostile Environments. A space vehicle contingency could force an unplanned landing or bailout in other than U.S. territories or territorial waters where interference or non-cooperation is probable. In such cases, the Combatant Commander in whose AOR the astronauts and/or space vehicle land will be the supported commander. The supported Combatant Commander, the Joint Staff, the Department of State, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the DoD manager

for HSFO, and other appropriate USG agencies will work in concert to affect the return of the astronauts. If a foreign country attempts to interfere with recovery operations, the supported Combatant Commander must be prepared, as directed by the President or Secretary of Defense, to render assistance to the astronauts and to effect recovery. U.S. recovery forces will not enter the airspace, territory, or territorial waters of countries that do not maintain diplomatic relations with the United States without the express authorization of the President or Secretary of Defense. The supported Combatant Commander will keep the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and CDR, USSTRATCOM, informed at all times.

5. Reporting Instructions. Commanders will make maximum use of the Joint Reporting Structure and existing Service reports.